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5. Rt. Rev. J. Rosati to Leop. Assoc., Rome, June 19, 1841.	23-25
6. Rev. P. De Smet ³³ to Rt. Rev. J. Rosati, New Orleans, Mar. 23, 1841.	26-51
7. Rev. J. Kundek to the Leop. Assoc., Jasper, Ind., May 24, 1841. . .	51-55
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9. Rev. F. Pierz to the Leop. Assoc., Arbre Croche, Mich., Mar. 15, 1841.	62-65
10. Rev. F. Pierz to the Leop. Assoc., Arbre Croche, Mich., Mar. 16, 1841.	66-72
11. Rev. F. Baraga to the Leop. Assoc., ³⁴ La Pointe, Wis., Aug. 27, 1841.	73-74
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13. German Pastors of Detroit to Leop. Assoc., Detroit, Mar. 5, 1841. .	83-85
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(To be continued.)

II.

CATHOLIC ARCHIVES OF AMERICA

(Contributed by the Rev. Dr. FOIK, C.S.C.)

If someone should ask whether an effort has been made at any time to collect the sources of American Church History, there are few among us who would be able to give the desired information. During the past quarter century there has been carried on, quietly and unobtrusively, a great work, to which future generations of historians will turn in ever-increasing numbers. This labor has been the life work of the late James Farnham Edwards, who first conceived the idea of collecting in one place the documents and other priceless papers referring principally to the history of the Catholic Church in America.

Professor Edwards stated that while a mere boy he was one day in a room where much rubbish, which had accumulated, was about to be removed. Among the heaps of paper he discovered several documents in Father Badin's handwriting, also letters of Bishop Cretin, Father DeSelle and other missionaries. The preservation of these few letters furnished him with an inspiration. Here was a field of labor which needed the attention of some careful collector. He determined that the best way to gather and preserve all this historical matter would be to have a place where it would be collected entirely. Easier access would thus be assured to the Catholic archives than if they were scattered throughout the country in the different dioceses. In fact, in many places bishops still find it difficult to supply the diocesan churches with priests, and hence they can ill afford to designate men with

³³ The famous Indian missionary describes in this letter his journey to the Rocky Mountains in 1840, and his foundation of the Oregon Mission.

³⁴ Cfr. REZEK (o. c., Vol. I, pp. 75-6).

the inclination to take up this special work. The plan to locate the Catholic Archives of America at Notre Dame was heartily approved by many bishops and clergymen in all parts of the United States. As the work progressed Professor Edwards received fresh encouragement from historians and biographers. The fruits of his labors were great. It would be idle to attempt even to enumerate the variety of material which poured into this historical treasure-house. Perhaps no one was more appreciative of Professor Edwards' work than was John Gilmary Shea. Several letters of this historian bear testimony to the value of the collection.

"Your wonderfully kind loan," writes Doctor Shea, "has arrived safely and is a deluge of historical material, a perfect mine of facts, estimates and judgments. Many of these letters have been in several hands, and how little they have made of them! There are some where every line is a volume to one who understands. DeCourcy had some of them, Bishop Bayley had them for years, Archbishop Hughes also had them. I recognize by Bishop Bayley's endorsement some of the Bruté papers so long in his hands and part of which perished by fire. You possess in what you have gathered more material for a real history of the Church in this country during the present century than was ever dreamt of. Your own zeal and labor as a collector, guided by intelligent love of Church and country, has been rewarded by great results. Yet I hope that it is only a beginning. I recognize more thoroughly now what you have done and, properly supported, may still do. You have created a new line, and your zeal has saved much from decay and destruction."

Professor Edwards on more than one occasion in his search for documents expressed deep regret when he found that the historical material that he greatly desired had already perished. He cited many cases of wanton destruction. Bernard Campbell, the historian who began the life of Archbishop Carroll in the *Catholic Magazine*, collected and studied for years. He obtained many documents from Bishop Fenwick, the second bishop of Boston, and from the Rev. George Fenwick. Mr. Campbell gathered together a remarkable collection of material concerning the Church in this country. At his death his wife placed these manuscripts in a trunk, and as she traveled much she carried the papers with her and preserved them for a considerable length of time, expecting to find someone who would realize the value of the papers and endeavor to procure them. But, unfortunately, no interest was taken in the collection and she burnt them.

Another case where priceless documents went to decay occurred in New Orleans. When the Federal troops threatened to destroy that city most of the papers of Bishop Penalver, Bishop Dubourg and others were concealed in a fireplace and bricked up. After General Butler had been in possession of New Orleans for some time the wall was removed, and then it was found that no one had thought to close the chimney at the top; the rain had poured down and the papers were a mass of pulp.

Great as has been the loss through carelessness, ignorance and vandalism, yet the amount of material preserved through the devotion and industry of James Farnham Edwards is considerable. These archives, by far one of the largest collections of their kind in the United States, are now being calendared and catalogued by the librarian of the University of Notre Dame.
